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**Published:**

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): ATLANTIC GILLNET SUPPLY, INC. [US/US]; 2223 Stackhouse Drive, Yardley, PA 19067 (US).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (*for US only*): HOLY, Norman, L. [US/US]; 2223 Stackhouse Drive, Yardley, PA 19067 (US).

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
1 July 2004

(74) Agent: STEWART, Raymond, C.; Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP, P.O. Box 747, Falls Church, VA 22040-0747 (US).

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: WHALE-SAFE ROPE

(57) Abstract: A rope comprising weak fibers for use with fishing gear, wherein the rope has a diameter between 5/16 inch and 1 inch and breaks between 600 and 2200 pounds of pulling tension. The rope is ideal for netfishing or trapfishing since its use will reduce deaths in whales and other cetaceans which currently occur during netfishing or trapfishing. Netfishing is performed with a net which incorporates the inventive rope as a head rope in the net. Trapfishing is performed with a multisectional rope which is attached to a trap at one end and is attached at the opposite end to a buoy wherein a section of the multisectional rope attached to the buoy is the inventive rope.

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# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:  
RAYMOND C. STEWART  
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP  
P.O. BOX 747  
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747

## PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT  
OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

Date of Mailing  
(day/month/year)

22 APR 2004

Applicant's or agent's file reference  
2934-0108FPC

FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraphs 1 and 4 below

International application No.  
PCT/US03/27932

International filing date  
(day/month/year)

08 September 2003 (08.09.2003)

Applicant  
ATLANTIC OILNET SUPPLY, INC.

1. ☒ The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report has been established and is transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the international application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally two months from the date of transmittal of the international search report.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34, chemin des Colombettes  
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. ☐ The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(e) to that effect is transmitted herewith.

3. ☐ With regard to the protest against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:
- ☐ the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.
- ☐ no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

### 4. Reminders

Shortly after 18 months from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90 bis.1 and 90 bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

Within 19 months from the priority date, but only in respect of some designated Offices, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until 30 months from the priority date (in some Offices even later); otherwise the applicant must, within 20 months from the priority date, perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before those designated Offices.

In respect of other designated Offices, the time limit of 30 months (or later) will apply even if no demand is filed within 19 months.

See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the PCT Applicant's Guide, Volume II, National Chapters and the WIPO Internet site.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US  
Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230  
Form PCT/ISA/220 (April 2002)

Authorized officer

Darren W. Ark

Telephone No. (703) 305-1113

(See notes on accompanying sheet)

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/27932

<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b>												
IPC(7) : A01K 91/00; A01K 75/00; A01K 69/06; A01K 73/02												
US CL : 43/44.98, 9.1, 9.8, 43.12, 100												
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC												
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>												
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 43/44.98, 9.1, 9.8, 43.12, 100, 7; 525/240; 428/370, 373, 372												
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched												
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) Please See Continuation Sheet												
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>												
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.										
Y	US 5,913,670 A (ANDERSON et al) 22 June 1999 (22.06.1999), see Fig. 6 and col. 5, lines 26-47 and col. 6, lines 7-41.	1-15,17										
---		16										
A												
A,E	US 2003/0204984 A1 (BRICKETT) 06 November 2003 (06.11.2003), see entire document.	1-17										
A,E	US 2003/0192228 A1 (AMES) 16 October 2003 (16.10.2003), see entire document.	1-17										
A,P	US 6,564,500 B1 (AMES) 20 May 2003 (20.05.2003), see entire document.	1-17										
A,P	US 6,457,896 B1 (DEDOES) 01 October 2002 (01.10.2002), see entire document.	1-17										
A	US 5,987,710 A (PAUL et al) 23 November 1999 (23.11.1999), see entire document.	1-17										
A	US 6,357,162 B1 (TORNGREN) 19 March 2002 (19.03.2002), see entire document.	1-17										
A	US 3,724,120 A (RICHARD) 03 April 1973 (03.04.1973), see entire document.	1-17										
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.												
* Special categories of cited documents: <table border="0"> <tr> <td>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</td> <td>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"B" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date</td> <td>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</td> <td>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</td> <td>"&amp;" document member of the same patent family</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention	"B" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone	"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art	"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family	"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention											
"B" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone											
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art											
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family											
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed												
Date of the actual completion of the international search 21 March 2004 (21.03.2004)		Date of mailing of the international search report 22 APR 2004										
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703)305-3230		Authorized officer <i>Vicki B. Ark</i> Darren W. Ark Telephone No. (703) 308-1113										

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PCT/US03/27932

## C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 3,426,472 A (RICHARD) 11 February 1969 (11.02.1969), see entire document.	1-17
A,E	US 6,685,518 B1 (GOUDEY) 03 February 2004 (03.02.2004), see entire document.	1-17
A	US 4,050,230 A (SENOO et al) 27 September 1977 (27.09.1977), see entire document.	1-17
A	US 5,894,694 A (ERLANDSON) 20 April 1999 (20.04.1999), see entire document.	1-17
A	US 4,466,331 A (MATHESON) 21 August 1984 (21.08.1984), see entire document.	1-17
A	US 4,445,295 A (LITRICO) 01 May 1984 (01.05.1984), see entire document.	1-17
A	US 3,793,822 A (KAWAI) 26 February 1974 (26.02.1974), see entire document.	1-17
A	US 3,606,815 A (YAMASHITA et al) 21 September 1971 (21.09.1971), see entire document.	1-17
A	US 3,540,083 A (O'CONNOR) 17 November 1970 (17.11.1970), see entire document.	1-17
A	US 3,369,317 A (BROWNELL) 20 February 1968 (20.02.1968), see entire document.	1-17
A	WO 99/00011 A1 (RUSSELL et al) 07 January 1999 (07.01.1999), see entire document.	1-17

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US03/27932

## Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

EAST

search terms: whale, rope, fiber, filament, yarn, break, breaking, weak\$, weakened, tensile, tension, pound, lb, lbs, polyethylene, polypropylene, net, fish, fishing, 57/\$.ccls., A01K 91//00, A01K 69/00, A01K 69/02, A01K 69/06, A01K 69/08, A01K 73/00, A01K 73/02, A01K 74/00, A01K 75/00